

Message Text

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PAGE 01 HELSIN 00426 021127Z
ACTION EUR-08

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FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1054

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 0426

LIMDIS

FOR ASST. SEC. HARTMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, FI, UR, US
SUBJECT: POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS WITH GOF

1. I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE VERY MUCH IN OUR INTEREST IF YOU --
OR DICK VINE IF YOUR OWN SCHEDULE PREVENTS -- COULD COME TO
HELSINKI FOR A COUPLE OF DAYS IN EARLY APRIL FOR POLITICAL
CONSULTATIONS WITH FINNISH MFA. ABOVE TIMING SUGGESTED IN
VIEW OF PRES. KEKKONEN'S OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR SCHEDULED
FOR AS YET UNKNOWN DATE IN MAY. I BELIEVE SUCH CONSULTATIONS
WOULD VERY MUCH BE APPRECIATED BY FINNS AS MEANS OF STRENGTH-
ENING THEIR HAND AS KEKKONEN EMBARKS ON WHAT MAY BE MOST
IMPORTANT VISIT OF HIS CAREER.

2. US-FINNISH POLITICAL CONSULTATIONS AT LEVEL OF POLITICAL
DIRECTORS WOULD BE VISIBLE SYMBOL OF US INTEREST IN FINLAND,
BUT WOULD ALSO BE UNUSUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS
ON WORLD TOPICS OF RECIPROCAL INTEREST WHICH DOES NOT
OCCUR IN REGULAR DIPLOMATIC CONTACTS. I BELIEVE FINNS
WOULD BE PREPARED DISCUSS FINNISH-SOVIET RELATIONS,
FINNISH VIEW OF NORTHERN EUROPEAN SECURITY SITUATION,
AND CHANGING FINNISH POSITION ON NIEO. FINNS WOULD BE
VERY INTERESTED TO HEAR US POSITION ON SALT, MBFR, CIEC,
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AND IN GENERAL TO LEARN OF THINKING OF NEW ADMINISTRATION
IN AREAS NOT COVERED BY FORTHCOMING VISITS TO FINLAND BY
ALLARD LOWENSTEIN (HUMAN RIGHTS) OR JOHN MARESCA (CSCE).

3. I WISH EMPHASIZE, HOWEVER, THAT MAJOR PURPOSE OF VISIT
IS TO HAVE HIGH STATE OFFICIAL COME TO FINLAND FOR WIDE-
RANGING POLITICAL TALKS IN ADVANCE OF MOST IMPORTANT

KEKKONEN VISIT TO USSR, BOTH TO SHOW TO FINNS OUR OWN
INTEREST IN KEKKONEN'S TRIP AND HOPEFULLY THEREBY STRENGTHEN
FINNISH HAND.
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